

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 275845

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NPG

SUBJECT: NPG - RESCHEDULING OF 18TH NPG MINISTERIAL

REFS: A) USNATO 6219, DTG 141805Z NOV 75

B) STATE 273372, DTG 190014Z NOV 75

1. THE SECDEF HAS REVIEWED HIS CALENDAR FOR JANUARY AND

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FEBRUARY 1976, AND FINDS THAT BUDGET PREPARATION AND

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS WILL PREVENT HIS ATTENDANCE AT NPG MINISTERIAL DURING THOSE MONTHS. SINCE WE ASSUME THAT OTHER NPG COUNTRIES WOULD AGREE THAT US REPRESENTATION BY SECDEF IS MOST DESIRABLE, AND THAT CANCELLATION OF FALL NPG MINISTERIAL IS TO BE AVOIDED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WE HAVE REVIEWED POSSIBLE DATES FOR RESCHEDULING THE NPG WITH SECDEF PARTICIPATION AND NOW CONSIDER TWO OPTIONS AVAILABLE:

A. MEETING AT NATO HEADQUARTERS ON DECEMBER 4 AND 5, PRIOR TO THE DPC AND NAC MEETINGS NOW SCHEDULED. FYI: WE ASSUME THAT SHORT NOTICE WOULD PREVENT FRG FROM HOLDING NPG IN HAMBURG ON DECEMBER 4-5 AND WOULD POSE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS FOR US AS WELL. END FYI.

B. MEETING AT NATO HEADQUARTERS ON DECEMBER 10, FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF THE DPC MEETING.

2. AMBASSADOR BRUCE SHOULD APPROACH SYG LUNS AND AMBASSADOR KRAPF AND, DRAWING ON ABOVE, PRESENT OUR SUGGESTED OPTIONS. HE SHOULD NOTE THAT WE RECOGNIZE THAT NEITHER OPTION IS IDEAL, BUT THAT WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO HOLD NPG THIS FALL AND THAT UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSITATE EXCEPTIONAL SOLUTION.

3. FOR BONN. EMBASSY BONN SHOULD APPROACH MOD AND ACQUAINT FRG OFFICIALS WITH SUBSTANCE OF PARA 1 AND SUGGESTED OPTIONS. EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND STRESS US DESIRE TO HOLD NPG MINISTERIAL; DESPITE SCHEDULING PROBLEM.
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